



Juaneño Band of Mission Indians

Acjachemen Nation

Resolution Calling for the Repudiation of the Doctrine of Discovery and Opposing the Canonization of Junipero Serra

WHEREAS, the Juaneno Band of Mission Indians, Acjachemen Nation is a sovereign Indigenous Nation with ancestral territories in the area now known as Orange County, California, an area heavily and forever altered as a result of the articulation and implementation of the Doctrine of Discovery and the subsequent imposition of the Spanish Mission System on our Ancestors and the Ancestors of surrounding Indigenous Nations; and

WHEREAS while the citizens of our Nation maintain a diverse range of religious and spiritual traditions, including Catholicism, and we support and encourage the rights of these citizens to all practices, our Nation agrees with the analysis presented by Steve Newcomb in his article, *The Vatican's Rhetorical Strategy: Serra Was a Man of His Time*, that:

“The context of the “time” that Serra was ‘a man of’ was a context expressed in numerous papal edicts of the fifteenth century issued by popes who were men of their time. That context is found in the Holy See’s directive to Portuguese Catholic monarchs to ‘invade, capture, vanquish, and subdue, all Saracens, pagans, and other enemies of Christ,’ ‘reduce their persons to perpetual slavery,’ and ‘take away all their possessions and property.’ (*Dum diversas*, 1452; *Romanus Pontifex* 1455)”

And that:

“The impact of the Spanish Catholic missions of domination shattered the traditional economies and ways of life of the original nations and [t]hat shattering impact was devastating on all levels for original nations that had experienced thousands of years of free and independent life-ways before the colonizers invaded.”

And finally, that:

“Serra used the mission system of domination as part of his effort to carry out the papacy’s call for “barbarous nations” (“*barbarae nationes*”) to be “reduced” and “subjugated” (“*deprimantur*”), meaning “dominated,”; and,

WHEREAS our Nation also agrees with the statements made at the Founding Padres symposium sponsored by the Institute for Policy Research and Catholic Studies at the Catholic University of America, by Father Henry Sands, Associate Director of Native



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American Affairs in the U.S. Bishops' Secretariat for Cultural Diversity in the Church, when he said:

"Native Americans are the subjects of colonialism. ... We are in a lot of ways a vanquished, dominated, oppressed people" who have experienced, "throughout the history of our interactions with Europeans who have come here, efforts to eradicate us."; and,

WHEREAS Pope Francis formally apologized to Indigenous Peoples when he stated that, "I humbly ask forgiveness, not only for the offenses of the church herself, but also for crimes committed against the native peoples during the so-called conquest of America,"; and,

WHEREAS, the "Doctrine of Discovery" has been utilized for over five Centuries in North America and other Continents especially in those countries inhabited by Indigenous Peoples who have been subjected to outrageous conditions as enslavement, torture, extermination and the total loss of rights, property and culture, and continues to affect all aspects of life for Indigenous Nations and Peoples throughout the world; and,

WHEREAS the *Preliminary Study on the Impact on Indigenous Peoples of the International Legal construct known as the Doctrine of Discovery, which has served as the Foundation of the Violation of their Human Rights*, E/c.19/2010/13 prepared by Special Rapporteur Tonya Gonella Frichner for the Ninth Session of the Permanent Forum on Indigenous Issues, April 2010:

"[E]stablishes that the Doctrine of Discovery has been institutionalized in law and policy, on national and international levels, and lies at the root of the violations of indigenous peoples' human rights, both individual and collective. This has resulted in state claims to and the mass appropriation of the lands, territories, and resources of indigenous peoples. Both the Doctrine of Discovery and a holistic structure that we term the Framework of Dominance have resulted in centuries of virtually unlimited resource extraction from the traditional territories of indigenous peoples. This, in turn, has resulted in the dispossession and impoverishment of indigenous peoples, and the host of problems that they face today on a daily basis,"; and

WHEREAS, The foundation of U.S. Indian Law is based on United States Supreme Court Justice John Marshall in writing one of the most important U.S. Supreme Court cases ever decided, affecting U.S. Indian law and policy- cited the Christian Doctrine of Discovery as the basis for asserting, that the Indigenous Peoples of this land possessed only a right of occupancy and not title to this land.



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Now, Therefore Be It Resolved, That, the Juaneno Band of Mission Indians, Acjachemen Nation does hereby call for the revocation of the Doctrine of Discovery and officially proclaims its opposition to the Canonization of Junipero Serra by the Catholic Church; And

Be it Further Resolved, That our Nation formally opposes the Canonization of Junipero Serra due to his association with, uplifting of, and support for Church and State doctrinal policies aimed at the eradication of Indigenous cultural, linguistic, and spiritual beliefs and practices and the far reaching and long lasting negative impacts on the Indigenous Peoples of this hemisphere and around the world as a result of such policies and practices; And,

Be It Further Resolved, That, Pope Francis of the Catholic Church be asked to Immediately reissue the Sublimus Deus Sic Dilexit Papal Bull of 1537, which states in part:

“The said Indians and all other people who may later be discovered by Christians, are by no means to be deprived of their liberty or the possession of their property, even though they be outside the faith of Jesus Christ; and that they may and should, freely and legitimately, enjoy their liberty and the possession of their property; nor should they be in any way enslaved; should the contrary happen, it shall be null and have no effect.”; And,

Be It Further Resolved, That Pope Francis be asked to Immediately Cease and Desist in the process to canonize Junipero Serra, and, to accept the United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples in denouncing the Doctrine of Discovery; and,

Be It Finally Resolved, That the Juaneno Band of Mission Indians, Acjachemen Nation supports the Continental Commission Abya Yala’s purpose of “actualizing the continental collective denunciation, repudiation, and dismantling of the Doctrine of Discovery as the root of impunity which violates the Territorial Rights of our Indigenous Nations since October 12, 1492, in the spirit of Self Determination as Original Nations of Indigenous Peoples of the continent, equal to all other peoples.”



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CERTIFICATION

This resolution was duly passed by the Juaneno Band of Mission Indians, Acjachemen Nation on September 6, 2015

Tribal Chairman
Matias Belardes

Tribal Council Member
Vice Chair Mark Mendez

Tribal Secretary
Christina Gollette-Gonzales

Tribal Council Member
Abel Silvas

Tribal Manager
Joyce Stanfield Perry